



ANTHONY J. STASKUNAS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

I would like to start out by thanking Chairman Kleefisch for scheduling Assembly Bill 597 for a hearing today before the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice.

I am here before you to talk about AB597, also known as the Global Positioning Satellite, or GPS Jamming Bill. This bill would make it a Class I felony for any person to tamper or interfere with a signal transmitted by a GPS tracking device that is used by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to monitor sexual offenders.

As you may be aware Wisconsin first started using GPS tracking devices in 2003, and there are currently 36 individuals that are under constant GPS monitoring. The budget that was just passed by the Legislature will greatly expand the number of sex offenders that will be monitored using GPS devices. These devices use satellites to track the movement of these individuals, and are monitored by law enforcement officials.

A GPS Jammer, which until recently was only used by the military, emits a radio frequency that interferes with the signal that is sent from the GPS tracking device worn by a sex offender. This signal is sent to the satellites which triangulate that individual's location. If a GPS Jammer is used, the satellites are unable to detect the signal from the monitoring device which makes the individual wearing the GPS device invisible to law enforcement officials.

Currently in Wisconsin an individual that intentionally tampers with a global positioning system tracking device, or comparable technology without the authorization of the Department of Corrections is guilty of a Class I felony (**946.465**). Unfortunately, this statute only applies to tampering with the actual physical device that is worn by the sex offender, not the signal that is transmitted from the device. This bill would close this loophole in current law and make it unlawful to tamper or interfere with the signal transmitted by a GPS tracking device that is used by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to monitor the movement of a sexual offender.

These GPS Jammers which can either be battery operated or powered through the cigarette lighter in an automobile can be easily purchased online for under \$200. In addition, there are numerous websites that offer a guide on how to build a homemade GPS Jammer. The state of Wisconsin spends millions of dollars on this technology to keep an eye on these dangerous sex offenders, however, all of this technology can be sidestepped by either purchasing or building a GPS Jammer. This bill will update current law to tie up a loose end that resulted from this new technology. This bill adds another tool to ensure the safety of the community against sex offenders.

Once again, thank you Chairman Kleefisch and members of the Committee for listening to my testimony. I will gladly answer any questions that you may have.

OFFICE: P.O. BOX 8953 • MADISON, WI 53708 • (608) 266-0620
HOME: 2010 SOUTH 103RD COURT • WEST ALLIS, WI 53227 • (414) 541-9440
TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1-888-534-0015 • FAX: (608) 282-3615

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER